CHAPTER XVI

INSECTIVORA--CHIROPTERA

Order XL INSECTIVORA.

THE Insectivora[1] are an order of mammals to which it is l
quote Professor Huxley) "exceedingly difficult to give a definitio]
They are, however, none of them large animals, and most of the
are nocturnal in habit—two circumstances which may have hi
something to do with their survival from past ages, as may ha
also their modification to so many and diverse modes of lift
for everything points to the antiquity of the group. They ai
for instance, more or less plantigrade. The snout is general!
long, and is often prolonged into a short proboscis.[2] There ;
a tendency for the teeth to be of a generalised type, an
their number is often the typical mammalian forty-fou]
Moreover, trltuberculate teeth, which are certainly an ancien
form of tooth, are common; and indeed the Insectivora of tin
southern regions of the globe, *e,g.* Centetidae, Solenodontidae, anc
Chrysoehloridae, have the most prevalent tritùberculism, a fact
which is of importance in considering the age of the animal life
of these regions of the world. The limbs are, as a rule, provided
with five digits. The hemispheres of the brain are usually
smooth, and do not extend over the cerebellum. The palate
is often fenestrate as in the Marsupials, and as in that group
the lower jaw is sometimes inflected. But the latter character
also occurs in the Sea-lions and elsewhere. Clavicles are present,
as a rule, but not in *Potamogcde.*

[1] **See especially Dobson, *A Monograph of the Insectivora,* London, 1886-90,**

[2] **Even in the Otter-like *Potamogale* the upper jaw, though hroad and flat, projects considerably beyond the lower.**